



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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Acting Homeland Security and Emergency
Management Director Perry Plummer
N.H. Department of Safety photo

PLUMMER NAMED ACTING DIRECTOR AT HSEM – Perry Plummer, Director of the N.H. Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services, has been named Acting Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, succeeding Christopher M. Pope. Plummer assumed the position on Jan. 3. He was named to the post by then Gov.-Elect Maggie Hassan and Commissioner of Safety John J. Barthelmes.

Director Plummer entered the fire service in 1986 as a firefighter for the City of Dover, where he quickly progressed through the department, serving as a Lieutenant, Captain, and Assistant Chief, culminating in being named Chief of that department. He was appointed to his current post as Director of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services in May of 2011, overseeing the Fire Academy in Concord, fire training curriculum and certification, and the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.

As Acting Director HSEM, Plummer will oversee both the Bureau of Homeland Security, and the Bureau of Emergency Management which coordinates the state's response to major disasters, and also the homeland security function of planning and training for criminal and terrorist attacks. He will also serve as the state's primary contact with the federal Department of Homeland Security and counterpart emergency management agencies in the other 49 states.

VY EXERCISES KICK OFF WITH TABLETOP – The 2013 Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant exercise sequence began Jan. 9 with a tabletop exercise at Gov. Hunt House, just outside the Vernon, Vt., plant. Nearly 150 state and local officials from Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts participated in the day-long event. Participants planned their response to a simulated mechanical breakdown at the plant the led to a ground-level release of radioactivity. Shifting winds prompted the evacuation of Hinsdale, Chesterfield and Winchester in New Hampshire and the removal of the Joint Information Center from Brattleboro to Landmark College in Putney, Vt.

The exercise sequence continues with Combined Functional Exercises on Feb. 13 and May 8, and the Graded Exercise on June 5. This year's exercises will involve one-day plume pathway scenarios.

STUDENTS COMPLETE CAMEO TRAINING – Twenty students completed computer-based training to plan for and respond to chemical emergencies. Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations, or CAMEO, was offered at the N.H. Fire Academy on Jan. 2-4 for New Hampshire first responders. It is a tool developed by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Emergency Management and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Response and Restoration to assist front-line chemical emergency planners and responders. They can use CAMEO to access, store, and evaluate information critical for developing emergency plans.

SBA SETS DEADLINES FOR DISASTER LOAN APPLICATIONS – The U.S. Small Business Administration has set **Jan. 28** as the deadline for eligible non-profit organizations to apply for loans to pay for physical damage from Hurricane Sandy. Eligible non-profits include food kitchens, homeless shelters, libraries and schools in Belknap, Carroll, Coös, Grafton and Sullivan counties. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

RED CROSS NOTES PROGRESS IN HAITI – It has been three years since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. The American Red Cross has released an update that shows hundreds of thousands of Haitians are living in safer homes and have improved access to water and health services since the quake struck. Maria White, CEO of the American Red Cross of New Hampshire, says ARC programs in Haiti have provided clean water and sanitation for 545,000 people, invested \$65 million in health care infrastructure and reached 3.1 million people with a cholera response and prevention campaign. The complete report on ARC activities in Haiti is found at www.redcross.org/Haiti.

REMEMBERING THE ICE STORM OF 1998 – Before the Ice Storm of December 2008 there was the Ice Storm of January 1998. While not as severe in New Hampshire as the later storm, it was for a decade the benchmark for how serious a storm like that could be. On the 15th anniversary of the January '98 storm, John Jensenius, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Gray, Maine, put together his recollections of the storm. John says 80 percent of electric customers in Maine lost power, and with recurring storms, many Mainers continued to lose power over the following weeks. In New Hampshire, about 55,000 customers were out of power, compared with about 450,000 in December 2008. Radial ice accretions ranged between 1-3 inches, bringing down trees, wires and utility poles. Two people in Maine and one in New Hampshire died of carbon monoxide poisoning and several hundred were treated for CO exposure. Other deaths and injuries were caused by traffic crashes, falls, hypothermia and structural collapses. *(Thanks to John Jensenius for putting this information together. His full report will be posted on ReadyNH – ed.)*

FLU SEASON REMAINS A CONCERN – New Hampshire's Director of Public Health Services says the state is experiencing an early and worse than average flu season so far. But Dr. Jose Montero says the flu season is not yet alarming. The predominant strain of influenza this year, both in New Hampshire and across the country is Seasonal A H3N2. To date in New Hampshire 20 people have died as a result of flu-related illness this season. Numerous outbreaks have been reported to the Division of Public Health Services, mainly among long-term care facilities. The state's hospitals are also reporting an increase in people seeking treatment for flu-like illnesses. Dr. Montero urged everyone six months and older to get a flu vaccine and to stay home if they are sick to avoid spreading the illness. For more information on this year's flu outbreak, the vaccine, and how to prevent the flu is available at www.cdc.gov or www.dhhs.nh.gov.

FIREGROUND SURVIVAL TRAINING SET AT FIRE ACADEMY – The N.H. Fire Academy is sponsoring two additional sessions of Fireground Survival training Jan. 23-25 and 28-30. This is a program developed by the International Association of Firefighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). It applies lessons learned from fire fighter fatality investigations conducted by NIOSH and expertise from the participating organizations. For further information and registration information go to: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/training/documents/1312iaff164.pdf>.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY - The Beacon Resort in Lincoln will be the site of the 2013 SNOBIRD EMS Conference on February 23-27. This conference, consisting of nine professional seminars, is approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Emergency Management Services for 16 hours of continuing education credits for first responders, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and Paramedics. The EMS National Registry recognizes the Office of Emergency Management-approved courses for those three courses. Go to www.emscc.org for more information.

Keep up with emergency preparedness information in New Hampshire on www.readynh.nh.gov and [Twitter.com/ReadyNH](https://twitter.com/ReadyNH). For information on upcoming training and classes go to: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/training/schedtrdates.html>